

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 XMB-04

NSF-02 CU-04 OES-06 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

AGR-10 PC-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 FS-01 EB-07 /075 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

TREASURY:MR. TED WALL

OPIC:MR. PHILIP MCCALLUM

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COMMERCE:MR. LARRY JENSEN

EXIM:MR. JOHN HUBER

NSF:DR. MANFRED CHIESLA

EB/CSB/OSB:MR. D. BRAMANTE

CU/NEA:MR. JOHN WHEELOCK

OES/SCI/BMP:MR WILLIAM MARVIN

NEA/RA:MR DAVID MORAN

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R 210055Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 208312

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, BEXP, EINV, EAID, TS

SUBJECT:U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION:PREPARATIONS

REF: A) TUNIS 5617, B) TUNIS 4596, C) TUNIS 3678

1. ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR THREE-DAY JOINT COMMISSION MEETING DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 13-22 ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND WE WILL ADVISE U.S. PREFERENCES SHORTLY. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS OUR TENTATIVE VIEWS ON OBJECTIVES, ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS, AND BACKGROUND OR POSITION PAPERS THAT WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE REQUIRED. EMBASSY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. OBJECTIVES: IN GENERAL, OUR OBJECTIVES WILL BE TO HELP SUSTAIN SOUND AND AMICABLE BILATERAL U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIPS AND TUNISIA'S ESSENTIALLY PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE WILL SEEK TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA AND TO CHANNEL TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE REQUESTS IN DIRECTIONS WHERE U.S. AID CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY BE PUT TO USE.

3. ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS: OUR INITIAL VIEW IS THAT TUNISIANS SHOULD DESCRIBE NEXT FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1977-81) IN OPENING PLENARY FOR BENEFIT OF BOTH SUBCOMMISSIONS. SUBCOMMISSIONS WOULD THEN MEET WITH SEPARATE AGENDAS FOR REMAINDER OF FIRST TWO DAYS. FORMAL PLENARY MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD ONLY ON THIRD AND FINAL DAY, WITH PRINCIPALS ON BOTH SIDES IN ATTENDANCE.

4. FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED FORMAT, AGENDA, AND PREPARATORY WORK FOR SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

A. FORMAT: WE WOULD PREFER TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST YEAR, RATHER THAN REPEAT GENERALITIES (E.G. ON NATURE OF COMMERCE, OPIC OR EXIM SERVICES), WHICH WERE EXPLAINED LAST YEAR. WE ENVISION NO EXCHANGE OF PAPERS WITH GOT IN ADVANCE OF MEETING. USG CAN OFFER FULL RESOURCES OF WORKING LEVEL STAFFS OF APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO COVER PROBABLE GOT QUERIES IN DETAIL. WE WOULD HOPE GOT DELEGATION WOULD SIMILARLY BE ABLE ANSWER AND DISCUSS OUR QUESTIONS IN DEPTH.

B. AGENDA: (WHERE APPROPRIATE, LEAD SPEAKER SHOWN IN PARENTHESES):

(1) OPENING REMARKS, INCLUDING REPORTS OF WASHINGTON AND TUNIS WORKING GROUPS.

(2) DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS OF TUNISIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR U.S. TRADERS AND INVESTORS. (GOT)
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(3) INVESTMENT SUBJECTS

(A) API/OPIC COOPERATION IN ATTRACTING NEW U.S. INVESTMENT TO TUNISIA

(B) TUNISIAN INVESTMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS, PARTICULARLY:

-- NEW OFF-SHORE BANKING LAW (GOT)

-- LAWS GOVERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OFFICES (GOT)

(C) AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENT POLICY AND OPPORTUNITIES,
INCLUDING INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION
WITH THE US AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL

(D) PURCHASE OF NPK FERTILIZER PLANT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
(GOT)

(E) ATTITUDES OF U.S. INVESTORS TO TUNISIAN INVESTMENT
CLIMATE (US)

(F) TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

(G) DOUBLE TAX TREATY: STATUS REPORT

(H) SURPLUS DINARS: STATUS REPORT

(4) TRADE SUBJECTS

(A) U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES: STATUS
REPORT WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO TUNISIA INCLUDING
REGULATIONS ON HOW TO ADD PRODUCTS TO LIST OF ELIGIBLES
(U.S.)

(B) TUNISIAN EXPORT INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES VIS-A-VIS
U.S. MARKET (E.G. MARKETING OF OLIVE OIL) (GOT)

(C) TUNISIAN REQUEST FOR U.S. EXPORT ADVISOR (US)

(D) WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE ASSISTANCE TO GOT (GOT)
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(E) USG ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIAN BUSINESS VISITORS TO
U.S. (US)

(G) MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (US)

(H) FUTURE U.S. TRADE PROMOTIONS IN TUNISIA (US)

(I) USG PROMOTION OF TUNISIAN MAJOR ENGINEERING AND
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (US)

(J) TUNISIAN MARKET FACTORS: THE VIEW OF U.S. FIRMS
(US)

(K) EXIMBANK'S INTEREST IN TUNISIA (US)

(L) TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT IMPORT PROGRAM: SPECIAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS (GOT)

(M) TUNISIAN TRADE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

-- EXTENSION OF DEADLINE ON INTERNATIONAL TENDERS (GOT)

-- 1976 FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND TRADE LAW (GOT)

-- CALCULATION OF EXCHANGE RATES USED ON BIDS: CLARIFICATION (GOT)

-- PROSPECTS FOR SIMPLIFYING IMPORT DOCUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES (GOT)

C. SUGGESTED USG BACKGROUND AND/OR POSITION PAPERS
(TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS TO EMBASSY SHOWN IN PARENTHESES):
(1) INVESTMENT SUBJECTS:

(A) TUNISIAN INVESTMENT CLIMATE (EMBASSY)

(B) U.S. DIRECT INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA

(C) TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN TUNISIA

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(D) US AGRIBUSINESS INTERESTS IN TUNISIA

(E) NPK FERTILIZER PLANT: BACKGROUND (EMBASSY)

(F) JOINT TAX TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

(G) SURPLUS DINARS: BACKGROUND

(H) US INVESTMENT ADVISOR AT API

(2) TRADE SUBJECTS:

(A) US-TUNISIAN TRADE: CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
(EMBASSY INPUT)

(B) GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

(C) TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL AND US MARKET

(D) WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA (EMBASSY INPUT)

(E) MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

(F) US EXPORT PROMOTIONS IN TUNISIA

(G) MAJOR PENDING US-TUNISIAN COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS

(H) TUNISIAN MARKET FACTORS: THE VIEW OF US FIRMS

(I) CONCEPT OF US-TUNISIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR JOINT
BUSINESS COUNCIL

(J) TUNISIAN REQUEST FOR EXPORT ADVISOR

5. FOLLOWING IS OUTLINE AGENDA AND PREPARATORY WORK FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION SUBCOMMISSION:

A. AGENDA:

(1) GENERAL PRESENTATION OF US ASSISTANCE POLICIES AND
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THEIR RELEVANCE TO TUNISIA. (US)
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(2) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

(A) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(B) AGRIBUSINESS

(C) RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(D) RURAL HEALTH

(E) FAMILY PLANNING

(F) NUTRITION PLANNING

(G) HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEES

(H) PEACE CORPS

(I) SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY RESEARCH PROGRAM

B. SUGGESTED BACKGROUND OR POSITION PAPERS:

EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PREPARE PAPERS ON ITEMS (A) THROUGH
(F) IMMEDIATELY ABOVE, PLUS A GENERAL RESUME OF THE US
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

6. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, REQUEST EMBASSY GENERAL BACK-

GROUND PAPER ON TUNISIAN POLITICAL SCENE. GENERAL
BACKGROUND PAPERS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ON CULTURAL
EXCHANGE, INCLUDING LOUISIANA FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAM,
WILL BE PREPARED IN WASHINGTON.

7. PLEASE ADVISE AS TO PRACTICALITY OF INCLUDING
MR. JACK HOEVELER, INVESTMENT ADVISER AT API, IN COMMISSION
MEETINGS. KISSINGER

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